

Claim Amendments

1. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a phone that comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components;

wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serve to provide one or more of originating and terminating telecommunication service to the phone;

wherein the phone comprises a first phone having a shared call appearance with a second phone over a switch component of the plurality of switch components and through the packet network, wherein the second phone comprises the shared call appearance with the first phone over the switch component and through a network.

2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the connector component employs an explicit selection of a particular switch component of the plurality of switch components to operationally connect the phone through the packet network to the particular switch component, wherein a user of the phone inputs the explicit selection.

3-4. Canceled.

5. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~14~~, ~~wherein the phone comprises a first phone;~~

~~wherein the first phone comprises a shared call appearance with a second phone over the first switch component and through the packet network, wherein the second phone comprises the shared call appearance with the first phone over the first switch component and through a network; and~~

wherein the first phone comprises a second shared call appearance with a third phone over the second switch component and through the packet network, wherein the third phone comprises the second shared call appearance with the first phone over the second switch component and through a network.

6. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the phone comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components through a respective one or more of a plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways.

7. Canceled.

8. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a phone that comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components;

wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serve to provide one or more of originating and terminating telecommunication service to the phone;

wherein the phone is registrable with any selected one of a plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways;

~~The system of claim 7,~~ wherein the plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways comprises a first voice over Internet protocol gateway and a second voice over Internet protocol gateway;

wherein the phone is registrable with the first voice over Internet protocol gateway at a first time; and

wherein the phone is registrable with the second voice over Internet protocol gateway at a second time.

9. (original) The system of claim 84, wherein the phone is registrable with any selected one of a plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways that ~~is~~^{are} owned and/or operated by a plurality of service providers.

10. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of service providers comprises a first service provider and a second service provider, wherein the plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways comprises a first voice over Internet protocol gateway of the first service provider and a second voice over Internet protocol gateway of the second service provider;

wherein the phone is registrable with the first voice over Internet protocol gateway of the first service provider at a first time; and

wherein the phone is registrable with the second voice over Internet protocol gateway of the second service provider at a second time.

11. (currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

selecting a phone that comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components;

wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serve to provide one or more of originating and terminating telecommunication service to the phone;

wherein the step of selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises the steps of:

selecting the phone to comprise a first phone; and

selecting the first phone to comprise a shared call appearance with a second phone over a switch component of the plurality of switch components and through the packet network, wherein the second phone comprises the shared call appearance with the first phone over the switch component and through a network.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises the steps of:

receiving from a user of the phone an explicit selection of a particular switch component of the plurality of switch components; and

employing the explicit selection with the connector component to operationally connect the phone through the packet network to the particular switch component.

13-14. Canceled.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 11~~14~~, wherein ~~the step of selecting the phone to comprise the connector component that is operationally connectable to the first switch component through the packet network and operationally connectable to the second switch component through the packet network~~ further comprises the steps of:

~~selecting the phone to comprise a first phone;~~

~~selecting the first phone to comprise a shared call appearance with a second phone over the first switch component and through the packet network, wherein the second phone comprises the shared call appearance with the first phone over the first switch component and through a network; and~~

selecting the first phone to comprise a second shared call appearance with a third phone over the second switch component and through the packet network, wherein the third phone comprises the second shared call appearance with the first phone over the second switch component and through a network.

16. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises the step of:

selecting the phone to comprise a connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components through a respective one or more of a plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways.

17. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises the step of:

selecting the phone to be registrable with any selected one of a plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways.

18. (currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

selecting a phone that comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components;

wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serve to provide one or more of originating and terminating telecommunication service to the phone;

wherein the step of selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises the step of:

selecting the phone to be registrable with any selected one of a plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways;

~~The method of claim 17,~~ wherein the plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways comprises a first voice over Internet protocol gateway and a second voice over Internet protocol gateway, wherein the step of selecting the phone to be registrable with the any selected one of the plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways comprises the steps of:

registering the phone with the first voice over Internet protocol gateway at a first time;
and

registering the phone with the second voice over Internet protocol gateway at a second time.

19. Canceled.

20. (currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

selecting a phone that comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components;

wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serve to provide one or more of originating and terminating telecommunication service to the phone;

wherein the step of selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises the step of:

selecting the phone to be registrable with any selected one of a plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways that are owned and/or operated by a plurality of service providers;

~~The method of claim 19,~~ wherein the plurality of service providers comprises a first service provider and a second service provider, wherein the plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways comprises a first voice over Internet protocol gateway of the first service provider and a second voice over Internet protocol gateway of the second service provider, wherein the step of selecting the phone to be registrable with the any selected one of the plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways that are owned and/or operated by the plurality of service providers comprises the steps of:

registering the phone with the first voice over Internet protocol gateway of the first service provider at a first time; and

registering the phone with the second voice over Internet protocol gateway of the second service provider at a second time.

21. (currently amended) An article, comprising:

a computer-readable signal-bearing medium; and

means in the medium for selecting a phone that comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components;

wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serve to provide one or more of originating and terminating telecommunication service to the phone;

wherein the means in the medium for selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises:

means in the medium for selecting the phone to comprise a first phone; and

means in the medium for selecting the first phone to comprise a shared call appearance with a second phone over a switch component of the plurality of switch components and through the packet network, wherein the second phone comprises the shared call appearance with the first phone over the switch component and through a network.

22. (original) The article of claim 21, wherein the means in the medium for selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises:

means in the medium for receiving from a user of the phone an explicit selection of a particular switch component of the plurality of switch components; and

means in the medium for employing the explicit selection with the connector component to operationally connect the phone through the packet network to the particular switch component.

23-24. Canceled.

25. (currently amended) An article, comprising:

a computer-readable signal-bearing medium; and

means in the medium for selecting a phone that comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components;

wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serve to provide one or more of originating and terminating telecommunication service to the phone;

wherein the plurality of switch components comprises a first switch component and a second switch component, wherein the means in the medium for selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises:

means in the medium for selecting the phone to comprise a connector component that is operationally connectable to the first switch component through the packet network and operationally connectable to the second switch component through the packet network;

~~The article of claim 24,~~ wherein the means in the medium for selecting the phone to comprise the connector component that is operationally connectable to the first switch component through the packet network and operationally connectable to the second switch component through the packet network comprises: means in the medium for selecting the phone to comprise a first phone;

means in the medium for selecting the first phone to comprise a shared call appearance with a second phone over the first switch component and through the packet network, wherein the second phone comprises the shared call appearance with the first phone over the first switch component and through a network; and

means in the medium for selecting the first phone to comprise a second shared call appearance with a third phone over the second switch component and through the packet network, wherein the third phone comprises the second shared call appearance with the first phone over the second switch component and through a network.

26. (original) The article of claim 21, wherein the means in the medium for selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises:

means in the medium for selecting the phone to comprise a connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components through a respective one or more of a plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways.

27. Canceled.

28. (currently amended) An article, comprising:

a computer-readable signal-bearing medium; and

means in the medium for selecting a phone that comprises a connector component that is operationally connectable through a packet network to any selected one or more of a plurality of switch components;

wherein the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components serve to provide one or more of originating and terminating telecommunication service to the phone;

wherein the means in the medium for selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises:

means in the medium for selecting the phone to be registrable with any selected one of a plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways;

~~The article of claim 27,~~ wherein the plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways comprises a first voice over Internet protocol gateway and a second voice over Internet protocol gateway, wherein the means in the medium for selecting the phone to be registrable with the any selected one of the plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways comprises:

means in the medium for registering the phone with the first voice over Internet protocol gateway at a first time; and

means in the medium for registering the phone with the second voice over Internet protocol gateway at a second time.

29. (currently amended) The article of claim ~~28~~²⁴, wherein the means in the medium for selecting the phone that comprises the connector component that is operationally connectable through the packet network to the any selected one or more of the plurality of switch components comprises:

means in the medium for selecting the phone to be registrable with any selected one of a plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways that ~~is~~^{are} owned and/or operated by a plurality of service providers.

30. (original) The article of claim 29, wherein the plurality of service providers comprises a first service provider and a second service provider, wherein the plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways comprises a first voice over Internet protocol gateway of the first service provider and a second voice over Internet protocol gateway of the second service provider, wherein the means in the medium for selecting the phone to be registrable with the any selected one of the plurality of voice over Internet protocol gateways that are owned and/or operated by the plurality of service providers comprises:

means in the medium for registering the phone with the first voice over Internet protocol gateway of the first service provider at a first time; and

means in the medium for registering the phone with the second voice over Internet protocol gateway of the second service provider at a second time.